

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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## Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held via a remote meeting at 1.15pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend

Present: Councillor G Morvan, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding  
Councillors K Jones JP; D Hillman; C Hillman; R Pagett; K Jenkins; L Harris &  
M Williams.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Town Clerk confirmed that there were no members of the public in attendance. **Resolved** to note the information received.

### Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 2a & 2e.

### 1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Councillor M Williams for the first part of the meeting.

**Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

### 2. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

#### a) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council (for information):

E-mail informing of Annual Plan for 2021/22 (please note that a hard copy was filed at the Council Offices).

Further to a request, it was agreed that the Town Clerk send a hard copy of this information to all Members for information.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) Welsh Government (for information):

Electoral Reform Newsletter (April 2021).

**Resolved** to note the information received.

c) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (for information):

Fifth Newsletter dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Members agreed that the numbers of families not receiving the benefits and help they were entitled to was both worrying and shocking.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

d) Blaenau Gwent Foodbank (for information):

E-mail confirming receipt of donation together with thanks and information.

Members noted the information provided by Blaenau Gwent Foodbank in respect of Nantyglo and Blaina. The Town Clerk informed that further information had been requested from the Foodbank in respect of ways in which the Town Council might provide further assistance.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

e) Healthcare Inspectorate Wales & Aneurin Bevan Community Health Board (for information):

E-mail informing of links to participate in reviews regarding Patient Safety, Privacy, Dignity & Experience whilst waiting in ambulance during delayed handover & Survey for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Patients.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

f) Older Peoples Commissioner for Wales (for information):

Presentation information re: Age Friendly Communities.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

g) Public Health Wales (for information):

Request for people within Blaenau Gwent & Monmouthshire to provide details of help provided during the Covid 19 pandemic.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

h) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (for information):

- i E-mail – Covid updates in respect to Covid symptoms, testing and change to restrictions as from Monday 3rd May 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

- ii Participatory Budgeting – Community Involvement – Planning Group.

E-mail requesting community volunteers to be part of the planning group.

Councillor D Hillman informed that he had previously participated in the Budget Planning Group whilst Leader of Blaenau Gwent CBC. Councillor Hillman additionally informed that he had applied online to become a member of this group but had not heard anything to date.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk nominate Councillor D Hillman as the Town Council representative to the Budget Planning Group.

- iii Melo update & Mental Health Awareness Week – E-mail informing of Mental Health Awareness week (May 10 – 16) and of the mental wellbeing website.

Both Councillors C Hillman and G Morvan completed the mental health training course.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

- iv Think 111 First – Email informing of new campaign to encourage people to call 111 for free help and advice in respect of medical queries & symptoms etc.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

- v Additional dates – Free Mental Health Training Course – Connect Five.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

- vi Spotlight On – Urgent & Emergency Care.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

- vii Vaccination updates:

Updates for weeks commencing the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2j. **Resolved** to remain in the meeting for the item.*

- j) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council:

Notice of executive meeting to take place at 10.30am on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

Councillor Hillman informed that they would not take part in the meeting as they were not members of the Executive but they would be in attendance.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

k) One Voice Wales:

Invitation to Zoom event re: Healthy Workplaces & Civility in Public Life on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

l) Richard Hancocks – Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch):

E-mail re: damage at War Memorial.

Members discussed the e-mail and it was thought that the damage might be due to storm damage rather than vandalism as photographs show the name plaques having become loose. The Town Clerk informed that Blaenau Gwent County Borough had been informed of the damage and that Blaenau Gwent CBC had confirmed that the War Memorial would be inspected and all necessary repairs undertaken. Members also commented that whilst the offer from Brown's Undertakers to repair the damage was very welcome, it was surprising that it was not more widely known that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council was responsible for repairs to the War Memorial.

**Resolved** to note the information.

m) WPS Ltd:

Notification of Insurance renewal for year 2021/22.

The Town Clerk informed that the renewal notice, quote and schedule for the Town Council's insurance (renewal date 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021) had recently been received from WPS Ltd. Members were also reminded that the Town Council had a four year agreement with WPS Ltd as from 2020. The renewal quotation for 2021/22 was £100 lower than for 2020/21 and it was confirmed that the cover requirements had been checked and were sufficient. Members agreed that this had been discussed in detail in May 2020 and accepted the lower quotation.

**Resolved** to accept the quotation received.

3. **Member Allowances 2021/22 (Independent Remuneration Panel Wales):**

Members were invited to consider the attached report for the civic year 2021/22 and resolve as appropriate.

Members considered the report and in line with the budget and precept report resolved in January 2021, Members agreed that the Chairs of the three Committees (Finance & General Purposes; Planning and Highways and Events) be classes as senior positions and eligible to claim the £500 allowance (as resolved in the civic year 2020/21).

Members also agreed that in line with the budget and precept report resolved in January 2021, the remuneration/allowance claimable for the Town Mayor be £500 and £100 for the Deputy Town Mayor for 2021/22.

**Resolved** that the allowances in respect of the Senior Positions and Mayoral allowances be paid (if claimed) as detailed above.

#### 4. **s.137 Payments to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank:**

As previously resolved, Members were invited to consider and if appropriate to resolve additional monthly payments (via section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972) to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for provision to local residents of Nantyglo and Blaina in light of the continuing Covid 19 pandemic.

Members agreed that the previous correspondence (item no. 2d) provided information as to the number of people assisted within Nantyglo and Blaina. In response to a query, the Town Clerk stated that it wasn't clear from the Foodbank's website if the donations made by the Town Council were publicised.

Member discussed and agreed that a payment be made to the Foodbank for May 2021.

*Councillor M Williams re-joined the meeting at this juncture.*

**Resolved** that a payment of £200 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for May 2021 and **Further Resolved** that this item be re-agended for consideration of a further financial donation for June 2021. **Additionally Resolved** that to request that Blaenau Gwent Foodbank advertise the Town Council's donations in aid of residents within Nantyglo & Blaina.

#### 5. **Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members are also reminded of that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) *None received to date.*

**Resolved** to note the information received.

#### 6. **Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- April 2021.

The Town Clerk informed that there were no updates in respect of Salem Chapel for April 2021.

*Councillor Pagett left the meeting at this juncture.*

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

#### 7. **Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960). **Resolved** that the motion be accepted.